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## Column One David Courtney

One good may have come of world tension — the direct interest of the principal antagonists in the establishment of stability throughout the territories they dominate or hope to dominate. Unfortunately, their interest is a good deal more than their ability to pacify. The affairs of the Middle East provide a case in point and so does the problem of Kashmir. The failure of the impressive influence of the West to persuade the Arab states to come to peace terms with Israel has nothing to do with any policy of objective non-interference and everything to do with the lack of a political policy anywhere near the level of strategic planning. There is a great deal of talk today about the need for more and more security, and, as well, a great deal of costly action about it. But precious little is being done towards the formation of a political and social basis to security, with the result that such absurd and dangerous incidents as the one now centered in the Huleh region multiply and grow more dangerous.

THE Huleh problem on the face of it is simple enough and should be settled before many more bulldozers are "mobilized" or any more Arabs are shot and killed resisting their transfer to a "place of safety." But this incident has followed close upon the heels of the Wadi Araba affair, and in a continuation of the present state of tension is likely to be followed in turn by other and worse incidents. Security in this part of the world must therefore be based on a country in terms of its neighbors' real or potential hostility. The idea of national sovereignty is a bad, if — at the moment — unavoidable habit, and has little enough to be said for it at the best of times. It is to be exercised in a manner threatening wide regional disequilibrium, and provoking the conditions of which great wars are made, who can wonder at the tendency of big powers to impose their will, in one form or another, upon the restless and petty sovereignties?

THE Kashmir problem is more urgent, conspicuous, and immediately perilous than the absurd situation in the Middle East. An Anglo-American resolution at U.N. proposes to send to Kashmir a successor to Sir Owen Dixon, whose job it will be to get India and Pakistan to agree upon a scheme of demilitarization and to allow him to arbitrate where the two sides cannot agree. Pakistan, having shrugged off the proposal as useless, when it was first put forward, has now accepted. India declines it still and its newspapers are passionately urging Nehru to reject it. Extraneous in New Delhi are talks about war and in Karachi there is a sense of obligation to bluster and challenge if only to appease such elements as the Punjab Muslim League. The President of that organization stated the other day that if Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan gained Kashmir, the people would make him Emperor; but if he let it go to the Hindus he would be the first to get a bullet through his brain.

There are the extravagant tales of the problem; but extravagance in that part of the world makes up a large part of every problem. The recent conspiracy of Major-General Akbar Khan, Chief of the General Staff, to seize power in Pakistan is an example of the kind of pressure now being brought upon the Prime Minister, and of New Delhi's fear of what would happen if it withdrew its troops from Kashmir as a gesture to plebeians. The whole problem has been worsened by the reports attributing Akbar Khan's attempted coup to a plan carefully laid in Moscow and intended to bring within the domination of the Soviet all the territory from Persia to the Punjab and on to Shanghai. The question of Kashmir is therefore by way of being lifted from the realm of a Middle-Eastern dispute into the deadly reconfiguration of the cold war. It provides all the evidence we need of the dangers of U.N. and great power equivocation and delay in the handling of such "hot" problems. There would seem to be no good reason for filling up still more columns by letting matters drift in the Middle East as well.

Tel Aviv, April 2

## Persian Cabinet Sends Board To Mediate Strikes

TEHERAN, Sunday. — A high-ranking three-man committee was appointed at an extraordinary session of the Cabinet today to tour the oil fields and mediate between striking workers and the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. It consists of Saraj Hejazi, Chief Inspector of the Premier's Office; Mehdi Moghaddam, a judge of the Supreme Court; and Mohammed Mehran, the Iranian Government's representative in the Oil Company, and will leave Teheran shortly. The appointment followed a discussion of strikers' demands held this morning between Premier Hussein Ala and representatives of the National Front, who pressed oil nationalization through parliament and have since bitterly opposed the imposition of martial law in the oil fields. The Cabinet met immediately afterwards to consider the proposed Committee, and later announced the appointment. Meanwhile, it was learned here that the shooting of Yahya Bakhtiari, cousin of the Queen, was not a political matter. He had been injured seriously in the face and chest by a Colonel Chaffari, reportedly over a land dispute between the two men. The assailant, it was stated here, eluded arrest, despite previous reports that he had been seized on the spot.

### More Troops Asked

On the oil fields, small groups in various centres joined the strikers today, but the total number dropped from 12,000 to 10,000. The whole of the oil area in the southern province of Khuzistan is under martial law, and the Governor of the region, fearing possible disturbances, has asked for more troops.

### IL 2.5m. Jerusalem Budget Approved

The Jerusalem Municipal Council was informed last night that the Government had approved its 1950-51 budget of IL 2.5m. Mayor S.Z. Shragai also reported that the Ministry of Interior had recommended to the Ministry of Finance that a IL 300,000 loan be granted to cover the deficit. The Council also debated a proposal by the Mayor that he be authorized to assign certain of his tasks to the three deputy mayors. The opposition demanded that the question be submitted to the Attorney-General because of the doubtful legality of the proposal. But the right-wing coalition defeated the demand in the ensuing vote.

## T.A. Council Rejects Finance Review Board by 12 to 10

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — By a narrow majority, the Municipal Council today asked Mayor I. Rokach to investigate the possibility of setting up a committee to receive complaints from the public either against actions taken by individual city officials or against decisions of the Council. This decision was linked up during the 90-minute debate with the proposal (defeated by 12 votes to 10) to set up a Financial Control Committee which would review the city's expenditures. Mayor Rokach and councilors of the Right declared that a draft law now before the Knesset empowering the State Comptroller to supervise the handling of the finances of local authorities would provide an adequate check. The Left-wing faction and the Progressives, however, demanded additional control to satisfy the public. Mr. D. Z. Finkas (Mirab) thought a Complaints Committee was superfluous. Discussion on them two points held up the budget debate, which was to have followed consideration of various routine matters, including the approval of the road building programme.

**Sewage Plan**  
Mr. Rokach then asked the Council's approval to proceed with an interim scheme to divert the city's sewage to cleaning plants north of the Yarkon River, thus restoring use of a stretch of the sea-shore from Jaffa to the Tel Aviv port. The scheme, he said, would cost about IL 250,000 and could be carried out within about two years. It would later be incorporated into his large-scale plan which would divert sewage to the

## U.N. Chief Sees Yadin on Huleh

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — At the request of U.N. officials, the Chief of the General Staff, Rav-Aloof Yigael Yadin, and the Deputy Chief of Staff, Aloof Mordecai Maklef, today received Col. Georges Bossavy, Chairman of the Israel-Syrian M.A.C., together with Mr. J. P. S. Rajasoria, U.N. Political Officer, and Col. A. P. Metz, Military Secretary to the U.N. Chief of Staff.

### Frontier Quiet But Still Tense

TIBERIAS, Sunday. — Today, the demilitarized zone was quiet but tension is still noticeable. For the first time, Israeli police have barred the approach to the Ynot Yaezer bridge.

Civilians in the area again observed activity on the Syrian side last night. The bridge itself is guarded only by Israeli police, while Arab policemen from the demilitarized zone left together with the civilian population yesterday.

At a conference at the Local Council at Kiryat Shimon on the occasion of the opening of a Magen David Adom station at the market, Mr. Nahum Horowitz of the Palestine Land Development Company said that there had been no change in the Huleh drainage plan, and that it would be carried out according to schedule. Tractors are at present being armoured for work in the demilitarized zone, and drainage operations are continuing in other parts of the Huleh valley in the meantime.

## Congress Elections To Be Held May 31

The Zionist Congress will open on July 31 and the Congress elections in Israel will take place no later than May 31, the Jewish Agency Executive decided yesterday in Jerusalem. A review of the legal aspects of the elections and the steps taken to guarantee their fairness was presented by Mr. A. Lauterbach, Executive Secretary of the World Zionist Organization. Mr. Y. Raphael, head of the Immigration Department, reported on the need to increase the immigration schedules and to change the procedures previously agreed upon in regard to several countries, including Persia and North Africa, as well as special categories, such as youth, halutzim who have completed their agricultural training, skilled workers and relatives. A sub-committee was appointed to study the question and submit a report to the Executive.

Dr. B.Z. Ben Shalom spoke on his trip to North Africa. Mr. Berl Locker, Chairman of the Executive, presided. The U.N. Chief of Staff has also requested the Israeli Chief of Staff in the past three days "to remedy two breaches of the armistice: first the placing of mortars in the demilitarized zone; and second, the entry of Israeli forces into the zone."

The spokesman claimed that both Syrians and Israelis were interfering with the U.N. observers, and "all our efforts are now directed toward re-establishing U.N. authority in the zone." The six observer officers in the area are composed of two Frenchmen, two Belgians and two Americans.

**\$7.5m. Trade Pact with Poland**  
TEL AVIV, Sunday. — A trade and payments agreement between Israel and Poland was signed at Helsinki this afternoon. The agreement is for the period from April 1, 1951 to March 31, 1952, and provides for the sale to Israel of oil, agricultural products and machinery, metal products, textiles, chemicals, timber, tools, crates for citrus, pipes and other goods. Israel will sell Poland citrus fruit products, chemical and pharmaceutical products, and various other manufactured goods.

**Mobilization Rally By N.Y. Zionists**  
NEW YORK, Sunday (UPI). — A minimum cost of \$100,000, in addition to regular needs, must be provided by the UJA agencies to bring 100,000 Jews from Eastern Europe and the Moslem countries to Israel in the next five months. Edward M. Weisberg, General Chairman of the nation-wide UJA campaign, announced here today that a Zionist mobilization rally endorsing the primary of the campaign.

## Bigger Middle Sea Role for France

WASHINGTON, Sunday. (UPI). — President Auriol has been given an assurance that France will be consulted by the U.S. on every matter concerning Mediterranean defence, authoritative sources here stated tonight. There will be no further bi-lateral talks on the subject between the U.S. and Britain, and France will have greater responsibility in planning Mediterranean defence than was originally intended, the sources said.

## Schuman Reviews Acheson Talks

WASHINGTON, Sunday. (UPI). — The four meetings he held with Mr. Dean Acheson, Secretary of State, had been "entirely profitable," M. Robert Schuman, French Foreign Minister, said in an interview here today.

Regarding Franco-American foreign policy the main subjects discussed during these talks, M. Schuman said were:

- 1) The Schuman plan for integration of European steel and coal resources.
- 2) Rearmament of Western Europe including the part to be played by Germany.
- 3) Problems facing a possible meeting of the Big Four Foreign Ministers.
- 4) The war in Korea and the French effort in Indo-China.
- 5) The entire problem of Mediterranean defence.

### Cordiality and Honesty

M. Schuman said that the talks with Mr. Acheson had been held in an "atmosphere of confidence and complete honesty." They had reviewed a broad range of problems now affecting the entire international situation. M. Schuman appeared to be extremely satisfied with his contacts with Mr. Acheson which he said were more valuable than all the diplomatic notes that the two governments might exchange.

In diplomatic circles here it was considered that the visit of President Auriol to Washington had been an outstanding success. The personality of the President, combining dignity with a touch of realistic humour, had captured the imagination of the American public and Washington officials, it was said.

## Egyptian Cabinet Again Postpones Reply On Suez

CAIRO, Sunday (Reuters). — The Egyptian Cabinet has postponed for the third time in three weeks the Egyptian reply to the protest note on restrictions on tankers passing through Suez, submitted by six countries.

A Cairo Radio report today says that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State George McGhee promised Egypt large-scale U.S. aid in the implementation of projects to raise the living standard of Egyptian workers and farmers. An Arab League spokesman meanwhile claimed that the U.S. and the U.K. would shortly reshuffle their entire Middle East policy. He told the Cairo correspondent of NEARs that this move followed Mr. McGhee's visit to Cairo and the recent Anglo-Egyptian talks.

## Im. Tons of War Goods to Europe

WASHINGTON, Sunday. — More than a million tons of military equipment were shipped to America's allies in the last 12 months, declared Defence Mobilizer Charles E. Wilson in his first quarterly report to the President today.

He reported that 3,500 tanks and combat vehicles; 11,000 general purpose vehicles; 750 aircraft; 100 vessels and small craft; and 3,000 major pieces of artillery had been shipped to the Allies — mainly in Western Europe — under the mutual defence assistance programme.

The report said "the rate of military production in Western European countries have more than doubled in the two years since the North Atlantic Treaty was signed and is expected to nearly double again during the coming year." Two years from now the U.S. should be strong enough to enjoy "reasonable safety against aggression" along with a high level of production for civilian use, it added.

Detailing accomplishments since the outbreak of the Korean war, Mr. Wilson said "already we have made America measurably safer." He added that the U.S. armed

## 300,000 Chinese Reported Massed For Offensive

TOKYO, Sunday. — Upwards of 300,000 troops and fresh supplies are being massed by the Chinese for an expected renewed offensive against the 38th Parallel, it is reported here. Elements of three Chinese divisions were reported today some 40 kms west of the central front town of Chosun, while pilots reported sighting at least 750 vehicles on roads in the area south and southeast of Pyongyang, moving in the direction of the front. Another frontline report said that the Chinese High Command was replacing its Fourth Field Army with fresh men of General Chen Yi's Third Field Army.

While low-lying clouds helped the Chinese in their massing, Allied "intruder" aircraft, for the third night running, last night attacked Communist convoys, and today, U.S. tanks rumbled across the 38th Parallel for the second day running to inflict heavy casualties on Chinese on North Korea soil before withdrawing south of the Parallel again.

**More Work Needed**  
Fighting inflation is going to be a tougher problem, Mr. Wilson said, and warned that it could sap the strength of the national economy. He predicted that greater efforts would be necessary, three to four million more workers would be needed in defence production, overtime would be required in many industries, taxes would be increased, and the nation's technological and social programme would be slowed down.

"We cannot devote as large a proportion of our national income as we might wish to the improvement of health and education, the clearance of slums and the development of recreation," Mr. Wilson concluded. (Reuters, UP) (See WCA, Page 3)

## S. African Group Calls For Strike Against Apartheid

CAPE TOWN, Sunday (Reuters). — A meeting representing more than 50,000 members of the South African franchise Action Committee, today passed a resolution calling for a general political strike against the Government's segregation of non-Europeans.

One hundred and forty-four delegates from 59 organizations passed the resolution which called on all workers, except those in essential services, to strike on Wednesday, May 2. It urged that all shops be closed on that day — or those that stayed open be boycotted — and that all children be kept away from school.

## Gromyko Mooted For Big Four Conference

THE HAGUE, Sunday. (Reuters). — A Dutch newspaper correspondent reported last night that Moscow is considering letting Mr. Andrei Gromyko represent Russia at the Big Four Ministers conference, if Mr. Vyshinsky's health has not improved by then.

Quoting an "official" of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Berlin correspondent of the Liberal Dutch newspaper "Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant" said M. Gromyko might carry on at the main conference as well as representing his country at the present Deputies meeting in Paris.

The Russians consider M. Gromyko's tactics "very impressive," the correspondent said. He added that Western support for Yugoslavia would be brought up by the Soviet Union at the Big Four Foreign Ministers meeting should it eventuate.

## NEW BOMB PLOT IN COSTA RICA

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, (UPI). — The discovery of a revolutionary plot, directed by ex-President Guardia, was announced here last night by President Otilio Ulate Blanco.

Five persons have been arrested on charges of planting bombs in San Jose and the police are searching for four other men in connection with the plot. The conspirators had arranged to purchase arms from Mexico, said the President.

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